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Special interest plants on Ciha property  
T-81-N, R-5-W N.W. 1/4 of N.W. 1/4 of section 13  
Cedar Township, Johnson County, Iowa

Prepared by Aaron Basten

The Ciha property contains a significant number of statewide endangered, special concern, and rare plants. A few others are noteworthy because they have only been recorded in Johnson county at this site. A summary of plants found here in four (4) divisions; Bryophyta, Filicophyta, Coniferophyta, and Magnoliophyta includes seventy-nine (79) families in five (5) classes; Bryopsida (15), Filicophyta (1), Coniferopsida (1), Magnoliopsida (54), and Liliopsida (8). Two hundred thirty-four (234) species are distributed among one hundred ninety-nine (199) genera. Some 20 species of mosses have been identified by Diana Horton, with the likelihood that more may be present on the property. A remarkably small number of non-native plants have invaded the site; only twenty-four (24) species being recorded at this time. A synopsis of the notable species follows:

Aulacomniaceae

*Aulacomnium palustre*, moss. Found at base of *Betula nigra*, river birch, on floating sedge mat in south-most pond. Known from scattered localities across the n & e; one locality in s.c. Iowa. Considered threatened/endangered within Iowa by D. Horton. Johnson county record.

Funariaceae

*Funaria flavicans* Michx, moss. Found at east edge of center pond. Known only from BUT & DEL. Considered threatened/endangered within Iowa by D. Horton. Johnson County record.

Sphagnaceae

*Sphagnum subsecundum*, sphagnum. Found on floating sedge mat in south-most pond. Known only from LIN, BLA, & HAN. Considered threatened/endangered within Iowa by D. Horton. Johnson county record.

Asteraceae

*Hieracium canadense* Michx. hawkweed. Good population on s. sides of south-most and center pond. Rare n, & in ec & se: LIN, MUS & SCO late 1800's. Recorded by Shimek in Penn Twp. 1895. Thorne lists as rare in Johnson Co.

*Hieracium scabrum* Michx. rough hawkweed. Small population on s. bank of central pond. Freq s & in the Pat. Plateau; rare to infreq elsewh. Shimek record w. of Tiffen 1930, Penn Twp. 1895. Thorne lists as rare in Johnson Co.

Boraginaceae

*Myosotis verna* Nutt. early scorpion grass. Good population open woods. Infreq to rare se 2/3 Iowa. Infreq Johnson Co.

Callitricheaceae

*Callitriche heterophylla* Pursh. water starwort. Annual aquatic plant. Large population in ne corner of center pond in 1992. Not seen in 1993; perhaps due to high water. Of special concern in Iowa; scattered thr. Reported by Thorne "in abundance in a temporary pond in sand hills near Cedar River, Johnson County; Cedar Twp., Sec. 12, May 14, 1955." This site is about 1/2 mile n of Ciha site.

Caryophyllaceae

*Myosoton aquaticum* (L.) Moench. water mouse-ear chickweed. On s shore spoil heap from dredging south-most pond. Rare non-native nc, ne & ec: ALL, CLT, CLI, DEL, DUB, FLO, JAC, & JON. Also found on Cedar River bottoms, Cedar twp., Sec. 14 by author some years ago but not collected.

Hypericaceae

*Triadenum fraseri* (Spach) Gl. marsh St. John's-wort. Found on sedge mat of south-most pond. Moderate population. Rare n & e in Iowa. Not noted by Thorne in Johnson Co.

Lamiaceae

*Lycopus virginicus* L. water horehound. Good population on sedge mat on south-most pond. Not reported nw in Iowa; infreq to rare elsewh. Infrequent in Johnson Co.

*Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton beefsteak plant. One plant noticed; did not search for more. Rare non-native ec & se in Iowa: CLI, DAV 1940, JOH & JON 1948. Occasional escape from in Iowa City noted by Thorne.

Nymphaeaceae

*Brasenia schreberi* Gmelin water shield. Good population in the south-most pond; even more in center pond. Of special concern in Iowa; found in only eight other counties. Thorne reported a seedling and old leaf floating in Swan Lake, Johnson Co. in 1951.

Papaveraceae

*Corydalis micrantha* (Engelm.) Gray corydalis. About 125 plants counted on south facing slope on south edge of property. Freq so & se; infreq sw; infreq to rare nc & ne in Iowa. Only reported location in Johnson Co.

Polemoniaceae

*Phlox blanda* L. Beck cleft phlox. Abundant between s & center pond & esp. w end of property. Rare e half of Iowa. Of special concern in Iowa. One of only three recently reported locations in Johnson Co., all found within this sand formation. This is the largest of the three populations.

Primulaceae

*Lysimachia thyrsiflora* L. tufted loosestrife. Small population on sedge mat on south-most pond. infreq nc & lakes area; rare ne & se in Iowa. Rare in Johnson Co. Reported by Thorne in marshy depressions in Iowan drift, Madison Twp., 1952.

Ranunculaceae

*Myosurus minimus* L. mouse-tail. Good population on s edge of north-most pond area and ne edge of center pond. Infreq ec & s in Iowa. Only reported location in Johnson Co.

*Ranunculus rhomboides* Goldie prairie buttercup. Infreq to rare n Iowa. Not reported previously in Johnson Co

Rubiaceae

*Hedyotis crassifolia* Raf. bluets. Very abundant early spring on w end of property. Infreq e Iowa and Johnson Co.

Scrophulariaceae

*Graebola virginiana* L. hedge hyssop. Central pond. Rare non-native se & sc Iowa: DEC 1900, LEE & MUS. Probable county record in Johnson Co.

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Violaceae

*Viola lanceolata* L. white violet. Good population along s & se edge of center pond. Of special concern and rare e Iowa: BEN, BUC, CED, JOH, JON, LIN, SCO & MUS 1923. Found by Thorne in wet margin of shallow pond in sand hills, Cedar Twp., Sec. 1, about 1 mile north of this site. This is the only known area for this plant in Johnson Co.

*Viola sagittata* Aiton arrow-leaved violet. Good population on s & se side of center pond. Rare to infreq e & sc Iowa; JOH & MUS. Infreq in Johnson Co.

Cyperaceae

*Dulichium arundinaceum* (L.) Britton three-way sedge. Good population around south-most pond and on sedge mat. Rare no, ne, se & sw Iowa. Reported by Thorne in 1952 in marshy depression in Iowan Drift Madison Twp.; noted as rare in Johnson Co.

Lemnaceae

*Wolffia columbiana* Karst Enormous population on south-most pond in 1993. Common in lakes area of Iowa; infreq to rare elsewhere. Rare in Johnson Co. Found by Thorne in shallow water of slough south of Iowa City, 1952.

Orchidaceae

*Spiranthes magnicamporum* Sheviak Abo. 25 plants on e. edge of center pond. Rare no, ne & sc: ALL, DEL, DUB, FLO & MRN. Special concern in Iowa. Also found in Kent Park, Johnson Co.

Poaceae

*Alopecurus aequalis* Sobol. marsh foxtail. Found around pond margins. Common in lakes area; infreq to rare elsewhere in Iowa. Infreq in Johnson Co.

*Alopecurus catolinianus* Walter foxtail. Found around pond margins. Infreq s; rare ne & nw in Iowa. Infreq in Johnson Co.

*Bouteloua hirsuta* Lag. hairy grama. Small population along abandoned fence line, north central edge of property. Freq to infreq w; rare elsewhere in Iowa. Probable county record in Johnson. Has been observed in same sand deposit just inside Linn Co. by author and others.

*Paspalum setaceum* Michx. var. bead grass. One of the dominant grasses, esp. on w end of property. Rare n half of Iowa; infreq s half. Freq in Johnson Co.

Pontederiaceae

*Pontederia cordata* L. pickerel-weed. Large population in center pond; less in south-most pond. Infreq to rare thr Iowa. Infreq Johnson Co.

Sparganiaceae

*Sparganium americanum* Nutt. bur-reed. Good population in center pond. Infreq se; rare s & ne. Infreq in Johnson Co., but also found in other ponds in this same sand formation by author.

Sources for status of plants on this list include:

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